

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LIBREV 02037 081502Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /057 W
-----033411 082044Z /72

R 081440Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9800
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 2037

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO
SUBJ: OAU OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: EMBOFF MET AUGUST 7 WITH COMMANDER DAWIT, HEAD OF OAU LIBERATION OFFICE IN ADDIS ABABA. DAWIT, A PRO-WESTERN ETHIOPIAN NATIONALIST, WAS DESPONDENT OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA. HE COMPARED FALL OF KAREN IN FOUR DAYS TO ERITREAN REBELS UNFAVORABLY WITH ENGLISH-ITALIAN STRUGGLE FOR CITY DURING WORLD WAR II WHICH HE SAID WAS "ONE OF BLOODIEST STRUGGLES OF WAR." WITH RESPECT TO RECENT EPMG STATEMENT THAT SOMALIS CONTROLLED MOST OF OGADEN, DAWIT ACKNOWLEDGED STRUGGLE GOING POORLY FOR EPMG. ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE, HE SAID, WERE TOTALLY APATHETIC AND "SOMALIS COULD MARCH INTO ADDIS IF THEY WANTED TO." WHILE PEOPLE WOULD STILL GO TO RALLIES AT REVOLUTION SQUARE AND PAY REQUESTED "DONATIONS" TO GOVERNMENT, MORALE OF BOTH ARMY AND CIVILIAN POPULATION AT ALL TIME LOW.

2. DAWIT TOOK OCCASION POLITELY TO CRITICIZE RECENT US ANNOUNCEMENT RE POSSIBLE ARMS AID TO SOMALI. HE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LIBREV 02037 081502Z

SAID US ANNOUNCEMENT COULD NOT HAVE COME AT WORSE TIME AND LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION USG HAD GIVEN "GREEN LIGHT" TO SOMALI AGGRESSION. HE STATED US STATEMENT WAS NOT SITTING WELL WITH MEDIATION COMMITTEE, BUT DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER COMMITTEE WOULD FORMALLY CRITICIZE US ROLE IN ITS RESOLUTIONS. (EMBASSY WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY IF IT APPEARS OAU COMMITTEE WILL DO

SO.)

3. COMMENT: DAWIT'S VIEWS ARE NO DOUBT SHARED BY VAST MAJORITY OF PRO-WESTERN ETHIOPIAN NATIONALISTS WHO HAVE NO GREAT LOVE FOR MENGISTU BUT DO NOT WISH TO SEE ETHIOPIA DISMEMBERED. END CONFIDENTIAL.

4. BEGIN SECRET NOFORN: AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION, DAWIT STATED THAT HE INTENDED TO GO TO EUROPE AFTER CLOSE OF LIBREVILLE MEETINGS "TO LOOK FOR JOB IN GENEVA." IF SUCCESSFUL, HE WOULD THEN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SMUGGLE HIS FAMILY OUT OF ETHIOPIA. DAWIT EXPRESSED NO INTEREST IN GOING TO US.

5. DAWIT WAS AWARE OF DEFECTION OF TAYA RETA AND THAT OF ROMANE HABTE YAHANES, FEMALE MEMBER OF EPMG OAU SUMMIT DELEGATION, WHO NOW WORKING IN LIBREVILLE HOTEL. END SECRET NOFORN. STEIGMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIBREV02037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770285-0119
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770886/aaaacutk.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01d05160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1676699
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, ET, SO, (DAWIT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01d05160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009